

**Division for the Visually Impaired  
Independent Living Advisory Committee  
September 11, 2018**

**ROLL CALL:**

Members Present: Chairperson; Wayne Marsh, Vice Chair; Patti Addison; Ken Rolph; Suzanne Howell; August Hazuer; Lynn Schneider; Kat Bottner; Loretta Harper-Brown; Carol King-Ries; Blake Roberts; Melodye May; Elisha Jenkins; Alice Johnson. Absent members: Carol Miller. Absent: Bill Bartlett.

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am by Chair Wayne Marsh. Roll call of the room was given.

**MEETING MINUTES**

Ken Rolph made a motion to accept the June 12, 2018, meeting minutes. Lynn Schneider second the motion. The motion carried

**REPORTS**

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT-**

Preparation 2020 Budget-The Division is preparing for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2020 budget effective July 1, 2019. The Division will be requesting contractual dollars to support its operating budget.

Sunset Process-The Division will be engaged in the Sunset Review process beginning in the fall.

Legislation: The Division is grateful to a stakeholder for ensuring Teachers for the Visually Impaired are included in the Loan Forgiveness benefit for educators.

**Consumer Satisfaction Survey:**

The Division for the Visually Impaired revised its consumer satisfaction survey this period. A Parent Survey to gauge satisfaction has been developed for the Education Program. This tool will measure communication, responsiveness, and the Teacher for the Visually Impaired's involvement in the Individualized Education Program. With this launch, all of the direct service programs of the Division for the Visually Impaired have a separate satisfaction tool along with a general survey that includes the opportunity to offer feedback for those that receive multiple services from the agency. Respondents can participate via survey monkey at any time or via telephone upon the conclusion of services/end of the school year for education services. Respondents who participate in

the survey are entered into a drawing for assistive technology such as Amazon Echo, Kindle, Digital Recorder, etc.

### **General Updates:**

Mission Transition 2018 was a huge success thanks to the collaboration of staff members from the Education and Orientation & Mobility Unit, Vocational Rehabilitation, Independent Living Services. Nine (9) students took part in a wide variety of Expanded Core Curriculum activities throughout the week, including:

- Planning a menu for four meals, preparing a shopping list, estimating costs, shopping at the grocery store, and comparing estimated costs with actual expenditures;
- Preparing breakfast, lunches for “on the go”, and dinners;
- Dining in a College dining hall and local restaurants; • Planning routes to local area businesses and making DART reservations;
- Career exploration, resume writing, mock interviews, and disclosure of disability; • Engaging in healthy discussions led by Alyson Lang, DHSS Trainer-Educator from the Tobacco Prevention & Control Program, regarding the dangers of alcohol and tobacco use (in any form), strategies to cope with peer-pressure, and how to continue to live an alcohol and tobacco free lifestyle. Thursday afternoon brought about a unique experience in which the students learned about career opportunities available at the Texas Roadhouse. One career in particular was that of a chef. The students rolled up their sleeves, donned aprons and learned how to make the delicious Texas Roadhouse rolls and the Steak Kabob entrees! The Division for the Visually Impaired’s Vocational Rehabilitation staff provided a workshop on completing applications, resume writing, interviewing skills and techniques, and disability disclosure at “Mission Transition Week.

During this reporting period, several of the Division’s Transition Students enjoyed the opportunity to attend the Level-Up summer camp program held in Kansas this year. Those students attending the Level-Up program were provided the ability to increase their level of technological literacy, interpersonal skills, explore various careers, and connect with a mentor in their field of interest. Students came back with a free laptop.

Thank you letter to the Division Director and Transition Counselor:

“The students and TVI, would like to thank you for providing us the opportunity to come to the level up program. We have all enjoyed the time here, and have learned

many useful things that we could use for ourselves to potentially use throughout our lives”.

### **Blind Entrepreneurs Program:**

The healthy vending analysis for FY-18 close-out (July, 2017 – June, 2018), was completed during this reporting period. The analysis showed that June 2018 provided the highest increase in sales for the Fiscal Year at 2,175 units, or an increase of 25% with 40% healthy vending options stocked in all BEP unassigned locations throughout the state. Overall, for the entire Fiscal Year, sales finished at a 7,534 unit of sales increase, or a 7.3% total increase.

The Blind Vendors participated in training on implementing healthy vending. Several resources and comparative data were shared and discussed. Initial outlook suggests Delaware is on the cutting edge of implementation.

### **ILS REPORT-Melodye May Administrator**

ILAC Meeting Report

6/12/18

Melodye May

IL – 98 consumers, last year 110

OIB - 308 consumers, last year 331

### **Summer Skills Academy**

The 2018 Summer Skills Academy was held from July 9<sup>th</sup> – July 20 at Blind Sight Delaware. The purpose of the 2 week camp was to provide participants with Expanded Core Curriculum enrichment activities to learn adapted skills for activities of daily living and career exploration. Eight campers participated in a variety of enrichment activities including lessons in clothing and money management, food preparation skills, career exploration and orientation and mobility. Campers were also visited by the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension’s nutrition program where they learned about healthy eating and making smart food choices. Art Therapy Express provided activities that included painting and clay sculpture creation. PAWS for people visited the camp to provide pet therapy to the participants.

The campers also participated in a variety of field trips including the Franklin Institute, the National Aquarium and the Delaware Rock Gym.

### **OIB-TAC Training and Technical Assistance (OIB\_TAC) Visit**

The Older Individuals who are Blind – Technical Assistance Team from Mississippi State University provided DVI program service providers, community stakeholders and administrators with a four-day technical and training assistance session from August 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the training was to provide participants with the tools necessary to develop and facilitate quality programs for the visually impaired. Although the training was presented by members of Mississippi State University's (OIB-TAC) team, the sessions were applicable to any older blind program. The training incorporated best practices from the field and were facilitated by subject matter experts from various states.

The technical assistance portion of the training focused on developing strategies for DVI's programs to operate more efficiently and effectively. Sessions on financial management, data collection, successful on-boarding practices and creating smart goals were provided to program and agency administrators. These topics were identified as technical assistance needs during the initial application process.

The training sessions provided to direct service providers focused on topics that will help them to utilize tools for developing smart consumer goals, assist consumers in the process of adjusting to blindness, conducting functional assessments, and working with special populations.

The training is planned to continue in September as a representative from the OIB-TAC project will present a two-day course in Low Vision.

### **Healthy Lifestyles Workshop**

A workshop promoting healthy lifestyles was presented at Blind Sight Delaware on August 24<sup>th</sup>. This workshop was facilitated by two professionals: Anita Cooper from the University of Delaware's Cooperative Extension and Gail Weinberg from the State of Delaware's Division of Public Health.

Ms. Cooper provided an information session on healthy eating including meal planning, smart nutritional choices and portion sizes. The group of 8 participants indicated that they enjoyed the information presented.

Ms. Weinberg provided information about maintaining healthy homes. Her presentation included a discussion about using safe substances for cleaning, including creating a vinegar and water based spray surface cleaner. At the conclusion of the workshop,

Ms. Weinberg distributed spray bottles for the group to create their own non-toxic cleaning solution.

### **Outreach Activities this Quarter**

Emergency Preparedness

Community Education and Health Fair – Modern Maturity

### **Workshops this Quarter**

Emergency Preparedness

Healthy Lifestyles

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Workshops**

What's new in Technology – September 21<sup>st</sup> – Biggs and Teleconference

Diabetes Self-Management – September 26, Dover Library

Accessible and Mainstream Electronics – November 16<sup>th</sup>, Biggs and Teleconference

Holiday Crafts – December 14, Biggs and Milford

#### **Events**

Food Back of Delaware Community Fair – September 13, Milford

Emergency Preparedness, October 24, Long Neck Cheer Center

Technology and Community Resource Fair – October 18<sup>th</sup> 9-2, Del Tech Dover

Diabetes Expo- November 13, Dover Downs

### **BLIND SIGHT**

Loretta Harper-Brown was introduced as the Executive Director of Blind Sight; she stated she was happy and excited to be at Blind Sight and looking forward to new endeavors.

Peer Support has secured a new meeting site at the VA Hospital in Elsmere, the meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays of the month from 11-12. Peer Support will also be in Summit Place on 9/24/18.

Blind Sight also assisted the Newark Senior Center with producing a cookbook of visually impaired bakers. The book is printed on yellow paper and in large print. Each recipe has the baker's name next to the recipe. There are extra copies and the cost is \$15.00.

### **DABA**

Next year DAB will be celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year celebration and will be looking forward to everyone coming out to help us celebrate.

DAB has sponsored several events, i.e. Transition mission, Beach House, Rock Climbing, and Fishing Trip. DAB encourages everyone to come out for their events.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Wayne, Chairperson, has ask everyone to support DVI with the upcoming Sunset committee. Please come out to the hearing, and if you are not able to attend, to please write your comments down and if you need assistance in anyway please let Patty or let him know and they will assist you or find someone that can.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- With no other business Wayne called for a motion to adjourn.
- Motion made by Patti Addison and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Suzanne Howell

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.